



QUEEN'S COLLEGE (CORK).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 February 1864;—for,

COPY "of all the CORRESPONDENCE and COMMUNICATIONS in possession of
the IRISH GOVERNMENT relative to the BURNING of the QUEEN'S COLLEGE,
CORK."

(*Lord Nans.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 April 1864.

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COPIES of all the CORRESPONDENCE and COMMUNICATIONS in possession of the IRISH GOVERNMENT relative to the BURNING of the QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

The President of the Queen's College, Cork, to the Under Secretary.

Sir,

Queen's College, Cork, 15 May 1862.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that about six o'clock this morning a fire was observed in the room of the Materia Medica Museum, which spread so rapidly, in spite of all the exertions made to arrest its progress, that the entire of that (west) wing of the College was destroyed, only the walls being left standing. Fortunately the fire was arrested by the Gate Tower, and all the parts of the College to the east of the tower, including the Libraries, Natural History Museum, Examination Hall, and other buildings, remained perfectly safe. The building of the Medical Faculty is also untouched. The collections of physical and chemical apparatus, although contained in the part of the building destroyed, were removed by timely exertion in perfect safety.

The College Council held at once an inquiry into the origin of the fire, in which they were assisted by Mr. Orme, R.M. From the evidence, there is no doubt but that the fire was malicious, and was contrived with elaborate ingenuity. Attempts were made to set on fire, by means of heaps of matches, paper, and in one case apparently tar, four separate doors on the cloisters of the west wing, which is open and accessible to the College-square. In three of those cases, the heaps of combustible burned out after only charring the doors to a small extent; but in the fourth case, that of the Materia Medica room, the fire caught and spread into the room. The ceiling and roof being continuous from end to end of that wing, the extension of the fire was extremely rapid.

Great difficulty was at first found in obtaining a supply of water, but after some time engines and water were abundantly obtained and worked with very useful effect.

The Council having concluded that the fire was, beyond doubt, malicious, I communicated, at their request, with the Local Crown Solicitor, Mr. O'Connell, and at 3 o'clock an inquiry was held at the magistrates' office, at which informations were formally sworn. Mr. Orme and Mr. O'Connell will, of course, report on their own behalf, and I have now the honour to enclose copies of such of the informations as I could obtain copies of before past hour. The others shall be forwarded in due course.

Mr. O'Connell, Crown Solicitor, has requested me to represent the necessity of having a large reward at once offered, in order to obtain the conviction of the authors of this outrage. He states his belief that if a reward sufficient to provide for a family out of this country, say 500*l.*, be offered, he thinks that evidence would probably be obtained which would serve to prevent such outrages in future. On this point, therefore, I beg leave to request that you may communicate with him or with Mr. Orme.

The College property destroyed, independent of the building and fittings, is as follows, so far as I have as yet ascertained:—

1. The Museum of Materia Medica.
2. The Pathological Museum.
3. The greater part of the collection of objects of Classical Art.
4. The Models and Instruments of the Engineering School.
5. Some Maps and Plans.
6. The Collection of Specimens of the Professor of Agriculture.

Fortunately, as the Session was within a short time of the closing of the lectures, no material interference will occur in the educational business of the College. The examinations which would have principally occupied the remainder of the Session will be carried on in the ordinary way.

I beg to state that all the officers and porters, and also the students of the College, exerted themselves in the highest degree for the preservation of the College property, and that we are much indebted to the military, under Colonel Smith; the constabulary, and the officers of the county gaol which adjoins the College, afforded most useful aid also.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Kane*, President.

Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B.,
Under Secretary.

OFFER OF REWARD.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

THE President, Vice-President, Professors, Officers, Graduates, and Students of the Queen's College, Cork, hereby offer a reward of 150*l.*, in addition to the reward of 100*l.* offered by the Government, for such information as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the person or persons guilty of the late malicious firing of the Queen's College, Cork.

(signed by order of the President)
19 May 1862. *Robert J. Kenny*, Registrar.

Denis Brennan Bullen, Esq., M.D., to the Under Secretary.

Sir, Cork, 4 Camden Place, 1 August 1862.

THE Local Crown Solicitor having forwarded to Government my sworn depositions concerning the fire at the Queen's College, Cork, I now feel it my duty to put before you the enclosed Minutes of Evidence relative to the communication, which I had the honour of addressing to the Lord Lieutenant on the 14th of May.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Denis Brennan Bullen*.

To Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B.,
Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

(Enclosures.)

MINUTES having reference to the Communication which I addressed to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on the 14th May 1862.

In October last I enclosed to Sir Robert Kane, Dublin, the following letter for Sir Robert Peel, with a request that he would place it himself in the hands of Sir Robert Peel.

Sir, 4 Camden Place, Cork, 19 October 1861.
Government having announced an intention of founding a Fourth Queen's College in Dublin, and as I presume, Sir Robert Kane, from his pre-eminent abilities and long-trying services in the cause of united education, will be placed at the head of the Metropolitan Institution, may I respectfully lay my name before you for nomination to the Presidency of the Cork College in the event of the office becoming vacant.

My claims are entirely grounded upon the part that I have taken in forwarding every Educational movement in the south of Ireland for many years; and should I be selected the successor of Sir Robert Kane, you may be assured I shall endeavour, by a faithful and zealous execution of duty, to promote the advancement of the College.

I have, &c.
The Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, *Denis Brennan Bullen*,
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

Some days after, Sir Robert Kane wrote me as follows:—

(Most confidential.)

Department of Science and Art, Museum of Irish Industry,
My dear Bullen, Stephen's Green, Dublin, 21 October 1861.
I am very glad to find you disposed to act in the matter of your letter. I think it would be by far the best for the interests of Education, and of the College, and I shall be happy

happy to promote its success by every means in my power. You will easily understand, however, that I can do more by the application not going in through my hands, especially as you have been so kind in your allusion to my name. I would, therefore, suggest that you should send it in direct to Sir Robert Peel, through Dr. Lyons, or Beauchamp, and get them to write to him. Some reference or inquiry would then naturally be made to me, and I would have the opportunity of saying what I think without any drawback on my personal intimacy or friendship for you. I therefore return the enclosed, but hope to hear of its receipt at head quarters before long.

Believe me, &c.

Dr. Bullen, Camden Place, Cork.

Robert Kane.

Upon Sir Robert Kane's suggestion, I requested Lord Fermoy to forward my letter to Sir Robert Peel, and his Lordship afterwards informed me he got a letter from Sir Robert Peel, stating that I had anticipated matters, and my application was premature.

May 14th 1862, 12 o'clock noon.—Called to the College to take leave of Sir Robert Kane, who had arrived from Dublin two days before. It was generally understood throughout the College that Sir Robert Kane was going to resign the Presidency. Mr. Fitzgerald, the bursar, was in the room with him engaged on business. Mr. Fitzgerald having left us together, I asked Sir Robert, what about the Fourth College? He replied, "The Ultramontanes and Trinity College are too strong for us at present, but that he would be a match for them yet." I then asked him to tell me what he intended doing with regard to the discussion in the House of Commons upon Mr. Adderley's motion relative to his holding the two offices? He said, "Mr. Cardwell had treated him very badly, and the Government did not sustain him as they ought to do; but he could expect nothing better from Lord Carlisle, Mr. Cardwell, and Chancellor Brady, as they and Alexander McDonnell were subservient to the Ultramontanes. They wanted to get him out of the way, but as long as he held his own in Dublin, and commanded the support of the great statesmen of England, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Clarendon, and Mr. Gladstone, he did not fear their worst." I then inquired respecting his resignation of the Presidency? He replied, "He had made up his mind, after Mr. Cardwell's conduct, to go straight to London by the morning train next day (Thursday), place his resignation in Sir Robert Peel's hands, and that, on Saturday, all official connection between the Cork College and himself would be at an end." I then referred to my letter to Sir Robert Peel in October last relative to my being his successor. He said, "I was now free to do as I liked." We then discussed the state of the College and of the Education question. I said, "The Queen's Colleges should no longer be held up as a taunt and a defiance to the Catholic Church, and if I applied for the Presidency, I would endeavour to bring about a more friendly feeling between the Government and the Roman Catholic prelates; that I was determined to act in the spirit of the letter, I had written to the Right Rev. Dr. Delany in 1860, and which he, Sir Robert Kane, had read at the time." Sir Robert Kane answered me, "That I may act as I pleased, but nothing would induce him to yield an inch to the Ultramontanes." I then asked him what he intended doing about the people at the Castle; would he call there with his resignation on his way to London? He said, "No, I will not go near them. I shall place my resignation in Sir Robert Peel's own hands."

When I was driving home from the College, after this conversation, I could not help thinking, as the discussion in the House of Commons upon O'Connor Don's motion was expected from day to day, that Sir Robert Kane contemplated using influence with Sir Robert Peel to lead the Chief Secretary into making a strong demonstration against the Ultramontanes, the result of which would be to render it an impossibility ever to effect an amicable settlement of the educational questions in dispute between the present Government and the Roman Catholic members of Parliament. Acting upon the conviction, I hurried home and prepared the communication of the 14th May, which I forwarded to his Excellency's private secretary by that evening's mail.

Next morning, at six o'clock, the College was set on fire.

CORRESPONDENCE.

4 Camden Place, Cork, 14 May 1862.

DOCTOR BULLEN presents his compliments to the Private Secretary, and requests he will do him the favour of laying the enclosed communication before his Excellency.

To the Private Secretary, Vice Regal Lodge, Dublin.

LETTER to the Lord Lieutenant.

"To his Excellency the Earl of Carlisle.

"My Lord,

"Cork, 14 May 1862.

"SIR ROBERT KANE has just informed me that, before many days, the Presidentship of the Queen's College, Cork, will be at your Excellency's disposal. Being at liberty to seek the office, may I beg your Excellency will allow me to lay before you privately the enclosed document. One is a letter which I addressed to the Right Rev. Dr. Delany in

1850, on the promulgation of the Decrees of the Synod of Thurles. The other is a pamphlet by my friend, the late Sir Thomas Wyse, in the compilation of which I took an active part. Your Excellency will observe some passages in Sir Thomas Wyse's speech, marked in the margin. These passages express the principles and policy in regard to academical education, which form special subjects of reference in my letter to the bishop. During the many years that Sir Thomas Wyse and I acted together in developing the present system of education in Ireland, we always succeeded in gaining the countenance and co-operation of the Roman Catholic prelates, with whom we were connected. When, however, the Colleges Act passed into law, and the whole education movement had been taken out of our hands, it was then these institutions, originally intended as a boon to the Roman Catholics of this country, were made subjects of polemical discussion and religious contention. I am anxious, my Lord, for an official station where I may be instrumental in giving effect to the policy of my lamented friend, and to the views on education which I now venture to bring under your Excellency's notice. Should the Government appoint me, no exertion of mine shall be spared to conciliate all classes, and conduct the affairs of the College in a spirit of good-will towards my colleagues.

"I have, &c.

"*Denis Brennan Bullen.*"

The Under Secretary to Dr. Bullen.

"Sir,

"Dublin Castle, 16 May 1862.

"I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, with its enclosures, respecting the office of President of the Queen's College, Cork; and I am directed to acquaint you that his Excellency has received no intimation of the resignation to which you advert.

"I am, &c.

"*Thos. A. Larcom.*

"*Denis B. Bullen, Esq., M.D.*"

The Under Secretary to Dr. Bullen.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 4 August 1862.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and enclosures which have been laid before the Lord Lieutenant.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom.*

Denis B. Bullen, Esq., M.D.,
4, Camden Place, Cork.

The Under Secretary to Dr. Bullen.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 4 August 1862.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you that it is reported to his Excellency that you desire to make a communication relative to the fire at Cork College, which you do not wish to communicate to the local authorities, and I am to request that you will call on Sir H. Brownrigg, who is a magistrate for all Ireland, and will receive your communication.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom.*

Denis B. Bullen, Esq., M.D.,
Queen's College, Cork.

Dr. Bullen to the Under Secretary.

Sir,

4 Camden Place, Cork, 5 August 1862.

I HAVE received your letter of the 4th instant, intimating "it is reported to the Lord Lieutenant, that I desired to make a communication relative to the fire at the Cork College, which I did not wish to communicate to the local authorities." The enclosed letter written to me by the Local Crown Solicitor will explain the circumstances which induced Mr. Orme to consider it better, I should myself communicate directly with Government.

In

In conformity with the suggestions of Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Orme, I forwarded to you on the 1st instant the communication in question, receipt of which you have done me the honour to acknowledge.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Denis H. Bullen, M.D.*

To Major General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B.
Castle, Dublin.

The President, Queen's College, Cork, to the Under Secretary.

Sir,

Queen's College, Cork, 2 October 1862.

THE application to the Recorder and the Corporation of Cork in reference to the late fire at this College having been closed on technical grounds without any exposition of the facts, I find it my duty, as President, to make inquiry into the conduct of certain porters and officers of the College with reference to the circumstances of the fire, and I therefore beg leave to apply to you for copies of all such informations and depositions as were made by any porters or others belonging to the College regarding the fire, and which are in possession of the Local Crown Solicitor or Law Officers of the Crown.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robert Kane,*

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

President of Queen's College, Cork.

The Under Secretary to the President, Queen's College, Cork.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 9 October 1862.

REFERRING to your letter of the 2d instant, I transmit herewith copies of the several informations, &c. with respect to the fire at the Queen's College, Cork, but I am at the same time to suggest that, as it is under consideration whether it may not be right to appeal against the decision of the Recorder, it would be advisable that you should defer any other inquiry till a conclusion is come to on that point.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom.*

Sir R. Kane, President,
Queen's College, Cork.

The President, Queen's College, Cork, to the Under Secretary.

Sir,

Queen's University Office, Dublin, 2 July 1863.

IN reference to Mr. Hennessy's statement in the House of Commons, that he had been informed by a Professor that Queen's College, Cork, was set on fire by an official of the College, and that depositions to such effect by the Professor were in the hands of the Government, I beg to state that Mr. Hennessy has avowed to me that his informant was Dr. Denis Bullen, Professor of Surgery in Cork College.

It has also been announced in the Cork newspapers that Dr. Bullen was Mr. Hennessy's informant.

Having had occasion, when conducting an inquiry at the College, to examine Dr. Bullen's depositions, I am aware that they contain nothing whatsoever to justify his statement to Mr. Hennessy, and that they consist merely of rambling and inconclusive speculations, destitute of any basis in fact; that consequently, under ordinary circumstances, they would not deserve any attention.

Great injury has, however, been caused to the character of the officers of the College and of the Government by the persistent circulation and repetition of Dr. Bullen's statement, that his depositions contain important facts which the Government is supposed for some purpose or other to keep back.

The Government is accused that, although informed by Dr. Bullen of the guilty individual, they have screened that individual from justice.

The Government is also accused, that having been informed by Dr. Bullen of who burned the College, and how it was set on fire, they attempted to defraud the

citizens of Cork of 7,000 *l.*, by seeking to recover that sum from the city, while suppressing the information they had received.

The officials of the College of all classes, from the President to the humblest porter, are placed under the vague but most injurious imputation that some one of their number was guilty of that crime, and they are yet deprived of the means of defining the accusation, or of obtaining redress against a groundless and heartless libel.

Under these circumstances I have the honour to request, on the part of my colleagues, the officials of Queen's College, Cork, and in the interests of education and of justice, that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant may be pleased to direct that I be furnished with a copy for publication of Dr. Bullen's deposition or information, or any other documents Dr. Bullen may have sent in to the Government on the subject of the fire at Queen's College, Cork, in order that the public may be able to see what Dr. Bullen has really deposed, and to compare it with the statements he appears to have made to Mr. Hennessy and others.

The matter being urgent, I would beg the favour of the earliest possible reply.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert Kane*,
President of Queen's College, Cork.

Major General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B.,
Under Secretary.

The Under Secretary to President, Queen's College, Cork.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 3 July 1863.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, requesting that you may be furnished with a copy for publication of Dr. Bullen's deposition or information, or any other document Dr. Bullen may have sent into the Government on the subject of the fire at Queen's College, Cork; and I am to state that his Excellency cannot consistently with official usage furnish copies of the papers in question.

Sir R. Kane.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom*.

Dr. Bullen to the Chief Secretary.

Sir,

Cork, 4 Camden Place, 7 July 1863.

I beg leave to enclose a correspondence published by Sir Robert Kane in the Cork newspapers, which has arisen from the following circumstance:—

Last winter Mr. Pope Hennessy dined at my house, and, in the course of conversation, asked me "what I thought of the fire at the College, as he intended to bring the subject before Parliament?" I told him, as I have told everyone who ever asked me the same question, "that after minutely examining all the circumstances, I had come to the conclusion, there was not a shadow of evidence to connect the crime with any person or party outside the College, but that there was a strong case of circumstantial evidence that the incendiary is an official." Without any authority from me, Mr. Hennessy made his statement in the House of Commons, and on receiving Sir Robert Kane's letters, the subjoined correspondence took place between Mr. Hennessy and myself.

To the Chief Secretary,
Castle, Dublin.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Denis Brennan Bullen, M.D.*

(Enclosures).

From *John Pope Hennessy, Esq., M.P.*, to Dr. Bullen.

(Private).

My dear Dr. Bullen,

The Temple, 6 June 1863.

I HAVE been asked by Sir Robert Kane, who is now in London, to tell him the name of the Professor who expressed his opinion to me that the man who set fire to the College

was

was discharging his duties on the spot when I visited it. I have replied that I must decline to do so, unless the Professor in question gives me permission. What shall I do? Whether you consent to let me mention your name or not, you are perfectly safe: for, in the first instance, you will see that I did not name the suspected party; and, in the second instance, there is no chance of your name transpiring unless you wish.

Believe me, &c.
(signed) *J. Pope Hennessy.*

(Private).

From Dr. Bullen to Mr. Pope Hennessy.

My dear Hennessy,

4 Camden Place, Cork, 9 June 1863.

I do not wish you to mention my name in connexion with the College, as my depositions and everything I know concerning the fire are officially before the Government. Having gone so far in this matter, you will procure for Sir Robert Kane the information he wants, by moving in Parliament for the depositions taken during the summer before Mr. Orme, the resident magistrate, together with any reports or communications to Government, from individual professors of the College, having reference thereto.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *D. B. Bullen.*

(Private).

From Dr. Bullen to Mr. Hennessy, after Sir Robert Kane had published his Letter of 19th June.

My dear Hennessy,

Cork, 26 June 1863.

As Sir Robert Kane desires the production of all the documents connected with the burning of the College, you are at liberty to enclose him, privately, a copy of my letter to you of the 9th instant.

John Pope Hennessy, Esq., M.P.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *D. B. Bullen.*

The Under Secretary to Dr. Bullen.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 9 July 1863.

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing a correspondence published by Sir Robert Kane in the Cork newspapers.

Denis B. Bullen, Esq. M.D.
Camden Place, Cork.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom.*

Dr. Bullen to the Chief Secretary.

Sir,

4 Camden Place, Cork, 9 July 1863.

On the 7th instant I forwarded to the Castle a correspondence, which had been published by Sir Robert Kane in the Cork newspapers. The allegations in these letters render it imperative on me to place before you the whole of my conversations with Sir Robert Kane relative to the burning of the Queen's College.

In the event of legal proceedings, I am ready to make an affidavit of the enclosed communication.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Denis Brennan Bullen, M.D.*

MEMORANDA of CONVERSATIONS with Sir Robert Kane, copied from Dr. Bullen's Commonplace Book.

Wednesday, 14th May, 1863.—Called at the College to take leave of Sir R. Kane. Before going to his house, went to the Mat. Med. Museum; found it locked. Williams came up with the key; opened it; room in order; on the shelf over the door were stowed away

the *Pathol. Spec.* from my last lecture; found Fitzgerald in conference with Sir Robert; he left us together; asked Sir R. about the fourth College; he said the Ultramontanes and Trinity College were too strong at present, but he would be a match for them yet. I then asked him to tell me what he intended doing with regard to the discussion of Adderley's motion in Parliament. He said—Cardwell had treated him very badly, and Government did not support him as they ought; but he could expect nothing from Lord Carlisle, Cardwell, and Chancellor Brady, as they, with Alexander McDonnell, were subservient to the Ultramontanes. He went on to say—But Sir Robert Peel has been sent to Ireland to back him in smothering the miserable conplotting that has been going on between Lord Carlisle and Doctor Cullen about the Catholic University; that Lord Carlisle and his party wanted to get him (Sir R.) out of the way: but as long as he could hold his own in Dublin, and command the support of Sir Robert Peel, Lord Clarendon, Mr. Gladstone, and the great statesmen of England, he did not fear their worst. I then inquired respecting his resignation of the Presidency. He said he had made up his mind, after Cardwell's conduct, to go direct to London by 10 train next day, place his resignation in Sir Robert Peel's hands, and on Saturday succeeding all official connexion between the Cork College and himself would be at an end. I then referred to my correspondence with Sir Robert Peel, in October, relative to being his successor in the Presidency. He replied, I was now free to do as I liked. We then discussed the state of the College, and of the Education question. I said the Queen's Colleges should no longer be held up as a taunt and a defiance to the Catholic Church; that Lord Palmerston would never stand to these Colleges if they were the means of losing him all the Catholic votes; and if I applied for the Presidency, I would endeavour to bring about a more friendly feeling between Government and the Irish prelates, and would act in the spirit of the letter I had written to Doctor Delany in 1851, which he (Sir Robert) had read at the time. Sir Robert told me I may do as I liked, but nothing would induce him to concede an inch to the Ultramontanes. I then asked, What about the people at the Castle; did he intend to call there on his way to London with his resignation? He said, "No, I will not go near them; I shall put my resignation into Sir Robert Peel's own hands."

When I was leaving the room he said—"Bullen, if you want the Presidency, get the Rev. Dominic Murphy to write a line to the Castle, hinting it would be agreeable to Doctor Delany to have you appointed. That is the way things are done by the Castle people. A priest calls there and says, Doctor Cullen would be pleased if the Lord Lieutenant would do so-and-so. Of course, the thing is done. Such is the way in which Ireland is governed."

College burned the 15th.

Monday, 19th of May.—Sir Robert and Lady Kane called in the evening, after tea, to take leave of Mrs. Bullen and the girls. While the ladies were talking together, Sir Robert and I discussed the College and the fire. He said he was sure the fire was the act of some fanatic, influenced by the ultramontane priests. I replied that, in my opinion, modern fanatics did not burn valuable property for the honour of God—they seemed quite content in decking eternal souls to fire; that my most intimate friends were amongst the Catholic clergy, who had been loudest in condemning the College, but they had no more to do with burning the College than the Man in the Moon. We then spoke about the distress amongst the artisans, the demands for public works, and the effect produced upon the popular mind by the pastoral of Dr. Cullen and of Dr. McHale. Sir Robert said—"You know, Bullen, these pastoral of the ultramontane bishops create feelings amongst the lower orders which encourage the commission of agrarian and other great crimes?" I replied—"Nobody, Sir Robert, deplores more than I do the injuries which political and factious ecclesiastics inflict upon real religion and the best interests of Ireland." Sir Robert then suggested to me that we should draw up a joint report to Government upon the origin of the fire, and attribute the crime to ultramontane influence.

I told him—"Sir Robert, I will do no such thing; and I strongly advise you not to write anything to Government but what you can swear to from your own knowledge."

9th July 1863.—From that hour to this I have not held any private communication, either oral or written, with Sir Robert Kane

4, Camden Place, Cork, 9 July 1863.

(signed) Denis B. Bullen, M.D.

The Under Secretary to Dr. Bullen.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 17 July 1863.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, with its enclosure, relative to the fire at the Queen's College, Cork; and I am to acquaint you that although his Excellency is at a loss to discover the object with which you have made the communication referred to, yet, as it contains a charge of a very grave character against Sir Robert Kane, namely, that he suggested to you "that you and he should draw up a joint

joint report on the origin of the fire, and attribute the crime to ultramontane influence," his Excellency feels that he ought not to allow such a charge to remain on record without giving an opportunity of defending himself to the person charged; and with that view his Excellency has directed that a copy of your communication shall be furnished to Sir Robert Kane.

D. B. Bullen, Esq., M.D.,
4, Camden Place, Cork.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thos. A. Larcom.*

The Under Secretary to the President of the Queen's College, Cork.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 17 July 1863.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter, with its enclosure, which have been received from Doctor Bullen, relating to the fire at Queen's College, Cork; and I am to acquaint you that although his Excellency is at a loss to discover the object with which Doctor Bullen has made the communication referred to, yet, as it contains a charge of a very grave character against you, namely, that you suggested to him "that you and he should draw up a joint report on the origin of the fire, and attribute the crime to ultramontane influence," his Excellency feels that he ought not to allow such a charge to remain on record without giving an opportunity of defending himself to the person so charged.

Sir Robert Kane, &c. &c.,
Poste Restante, Geneva, Switzerland.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thos. A. Larcom.*

The President of the Queen's College, Cork, to the Under Secretary.

Sir,

Hotel de la Couronne, Geneva, 27 July 1863.

ON my arrival here to-day, I had the honour to receive your letter of the 17th instant, enclosing a copy of Dr. Bullen's communication of the 9th July 1863.

I beg to state that his assertion, that I "suggested to him that he and I should draw up a joint report on the origin of the fire, and attribute the crime to ultramontane influence," is utterly false; no such suggestion, and no remark capable of such an interpretation, having ever been made by me to him, or to any other person.

In reference to the other "Extracts from Dr. Bullen's Commonplace Book" which he has submitted for the consideration of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, I have had the honour of writing to-day to his Excellency, explaining that I never on any occasion used any such language as could at all justify Dr. Bullen's version of the conversation he pretends to report.

The morality of Dr. Bullen's writing down secretly in a Commonplace Book a calumny, pretending to be a report of a private conversation with the President of the College of which he is a professor, and subsequently forwarding a copy of that libel to the Government, I leave to the consideration of the proper authorities.

Major General Sir Thos. Larcom, K. C. B.,
Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. Kane.*

The President of the Queen's College, Cork, to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

My Lord,

Hotel de la Couronne, Geneva, 27 July 1863.

I RECEIVED to-day, on my arrival here, Sir Thomas Larcom's letter, enclosing copy of a communication from Dr. Bullen, of Queen's College, Cork, in which he describes me as having referred to your Excellency's opinions and conduct in public

public matters, in a conversation with him, in a spirit which I entirely repudiate, and in language which I positively deny that I ever used.

I have spoken on educational subjects in private society, on public occasions, and even in your Excellency's presence, freely and openly, my conscientious opinions as to the policy by which the permanent improvement of the country could best be secured: my sentiments are thus, within the limited sphere of my action, perfectly well known; and I beg leave respectfully to assert that I have on all occasions, and at all times, borne my sincere testimony to the great benefits conferred on Ireland by the wise and liberal policy of your Excellency's Government, as well as to the zealous and enlightened patronage which your Excellency has personally afforded to everything that could promote social or intellectual improvement.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Earl of Carlisle, K. G., (signed) *Robert Kane.*
Lord Lieutenant.

The Under Secretary to *Dr. Bullen.*

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 6 August 1863.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to state to you that a copy of your communication of the 9th ultimo having been sent to Sir Robert Kane, a reply has been received from him stating "that your assertion that he suggested that you and he should draw up a joint report on the origin of the fire and attribute the crime to ultramontane influence" is entirely untrue; no such suggestion, and no remark capable of such an interpretation, having ever been made by him to you or to any other person.

It is satisfactory to his Excellency to have received Sir Robert Kane's explicit denial of the charge you have brought against him; and as there appears to be no evidence to sustain it except your own statement, which is thus met by a direct contradiction, his Excellency does not feel that any benefit would be likely to result from directing any further inquiry into the matter.

I am, &c.

D. B. Bullen, Esq., M. P., (signed) *Thos. A. Larcom.*
4 Camden Place, Cork.

Dr. Bullen to the Inspector General of Constabulary.

Sir,

4 Camden Place, Cork, 6 August 1863.

* See page 14.

Will you allow me to tender the enclosed information* relative to the burning of the Queen's College, Cork?

At any hour you may be pleased to appoint I shall wait upon you, at your office in the Castle, to prepare and swear my depositions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Dennis Brennan Bullen.*

To Sir Henry Browning, C. B., Inspector General,
Castle, Dublin.

The Inspector General of Constabulary to *Dr. Bullen.*

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,

11 August 1863.

Sir,

I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 8th instant, and the document which accompanied it (which is herewith returned), and to inform you that, although I shall be thankful at all times to receive any communication touching charges of a criminal character, I cannot discover anything in the statement in question requiring that I should adopt the unusual course of taking

taking an information on the subject thereof, which should properly be done by the local authorities.

I may at the same time be permitted to observe that the statement itself is of so vague and indefinite a character, charging no one with any specific offence, that I doubt very much whether any magistrate would feel himself warranted in adopting it as an information at all.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *Henry J. Brownrigg,*
Inspector General of Constabulary

To Denis B. Bullen, Esq., M.P.,
Cork.

Dr. Bullen to the Inspector General of Constabulary.

Sir,

4 Camden Place, Cork, 13 August 1863.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 11th instant with the enclosures.

May I beg you will assure his Excellency that my only object in making my recent communications has been to give Government, confidentially, the fullest and most unreserved information of every circumstance within my knowledge connected with the imputed crime and with Mr. Pope Hennessy's proceedings in the House of Commons?

I am, &c.

(signed) *Denis B. Bullen, M.P.*

Sir Henry Brownrigg, C.B.,
Inspector General, Dublin Castle.

The President of the Queen's College, Cork, to the Under-Secretary.

Sir,

Queen's College, Cork, 23 October 1863.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the consideration of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, certain documents which were submitted by Dr. Bullen to the governing body of this College, together with copy of a resolution of Council regarding same, and of my letter informing Dr. Bullen on the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robert Kane.*

Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom, K.C.B.,
Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle.

(Enclosures.)

The President of the Queen's College, Cork, to Dr. Bullen.

Sir,

Queen's College, Cork, 23 October 1863.

In reference to your letter of the 22d, enclosing certain documents for the information of the College Council, I beg to transmit to you a copy of a resolution adopted by the College Council in that regard, and to state that I have forwarded your papers to Sir Thomas Larcom, in order that they may receive from Her Majesty's Government proper consideration.

I remain, &c.

(signed) *Robert Kane.*

Dr. Bullen, Queen's College, Cork.

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL.

THAT the documents placed by Dr. Bullen before the governing body of the College, in compliance (according to his statement) with the President's demand for the production of the information tendered by him to Government relative to the malicious burning of the College, be handed to the President without investigating their contents, as it appears from his letter they have been already under the consideration of the Government, and therefore may properly be left in their hands.

Proposed by Dr. Ryall; seconded by Dr. Blyth.
23 October 1863.

(signed) *R. Kane.*

To the President and Council of Queen's College, Cork.

Gentlemen,

SOME months ago, when the College was in vacation, Sir Robert Kane called upon me, through the public newspapers, to produce the information I tendered to Government relative to the malicious burning of the College. In compliance with the President's demand, I now beg leave to place before the governing body of the College all the documents which he requires.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Denis Br. Bullen, M.D.,*
Professor of Surgery.

Cork, 22 October 1863.

DEPOSITION of *Denis Brown Bullen, M.D.,* Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Queen's College, Cork.

THAT on Wednesday, 14th of May, at twelve o'clock noon, I went to the College to see Sir Robert Kane; that before calling at Sir Robert Kane's residence, I went to the Materia Medica Museum. This museum is the apartment in which I made preparation for my lecture which had terminated on the 1st of May. That I found the door locked, but immediately the steward, Williams, came with the key and opened the door. That I went into the museum, and looked about to see that everything was in proper order. The room was in order, except that I observed on an open shelf over the door at least one dozen large glass jars were placed, containing Pathological specimens preserved in spirits of wine (some of them methylated spirit), which preparations had been brought down from the Pathological Museum for the illustration of the last lectures I had given in that department of the College. It was the steward's business to see that these jars had been taken back to the Pathological Museum, but as there was great want of room in the department, and these preparations would be wanted next session, I did not make any remark on the fact of their not having been taken back. I then called on Sir Robert Kane to take leave of him, it being generally understood throughout the College that he was about to resign the Presidency. Having seen Sir Robert Kane, he told me he was to leave Cork by the 10.10 train next morning, go direct to London to place his resignation in Sir Robert Peel's hands; and that on Saturday next following all official connexion between the College and himself would be at end. I, deponent, have had reason to know that a strong impression existed among the porters of the College, whose appointments are vested by the statutes absolutely in the President, that if Sir Robert Kane ceased to be President some of them would be instantly dismissed from their situations.

I further swear that on the morning of Thursday, 15th of May, at nine o'clock, A.M., I, deponent, received a note from Sir Robert Kane, requesting me to attend an immediate meeting of the Council, to consider the circumstances of the fire, the College being then burning. I went to the College, took part in the proceedings, and heard the depositions which were taken from the respective persons who had directed their attention to the origin of the fire.

Some days after the fire, I, deponent, made a minute examination of the ruins. Between the stone corridor and the door of the Materia Medica Museum, where the fire originated, there was a passage with a timber floor. The floor of this passage was charred, but several of the boards remained partially consumed and blackened by fire. On closely inspecting these portions of the floor, I, deponent, saw visible marks, as if an inflammable fluid (as methylated spirit) had leaked out from under the said door, making a defined figure on the timber flooring, and as if, when this part of the floor took fire, the part impregnated with the fluid burned through. I showed these marks to Professors Jack and Barry, to Mr. Kenny, and afterwards to Professor Blyth. Being struck by these appearances, I made inquiries amongst my acquaintances residing at Sunday's Well, from which place there is the most perfect view of the College buildings, whether any of them had seen the breaking out of the fire. One lady, who lived immediately opposite the College, informed me that she got up to look after one of her children, and saw by her watch it was half-past five o'clock. She called her child's maid, and they both looked out of the window, from which they could see the College distinctly. There was not then any trace of smoke coming out of any of the chimneys, nor from any portion of said College. A few minutes before six o'clock, same morning, they saw a burst of smoke come out of a chimney, and soon after saw flames following the same. Another lady, who lives in the same neighbourhood, informed me that she got up that morning a little before six o'clock, and saw a burst of smoke rush suddenly from the chimney of the College, followed by flame.

Considering these circumstances, and having maturely weighed in my own mind the several depositions already taken in the previous inquiry, I am of opinion that the College was designedly set on fire between half-past five and six o'clock, by some person intimately acquainted with the interior of said College, who had accurate knowledge of the peculiar matter contained in the Materia Medica Museum; that he had access thereto, without apprehension of being detected, and went into the said room by ordinary means, thereby evading discovery. I further depose that the floor of this room was covered with coco-nut matting, which does not blaze or break out in flame except when impregnated with some inflammable material; that there were at least six gallons of spirit of wine (some

(some methylated) in the Pathological preparations over the door, as before stated; and the Materia Medica Museum already mentioned, contained preparations of spirits, ethers, balsams, resins, and various articles of an inflammable nature; that in the room overhead the Pathological Museum had preparations containing a large quantity of spirits of wine and other inflammable material. Moreover, there were manuscripts in the wooden presses of the Materia Medica Museum. It was only necessary to place the manuscripts on the floor, pour over them the contents of a few of the jars, apply an ignited lucifer match, then lock the door, when every condition is satisfied according to the testimonies already given.

I, deponent, further swear that I examined the traces of apparent attempts which had been made to set fire to three doors in the corridor of the College, by placing underneath them bits of newspaper and lucifer matches, and I am satisfied in my own mind that the incendiary placed these bits of newspaper and lucifer matches under the three doors, with a design to direct attention from the real origin of the fire, and to make it appear as if the crime had been committed by some person or persons who had obtained access during the night from without the College, and had kindled the fire by placing matches under the doors.

July 1862.

Sworn before Mr. Orme, Resident Magistrate.

DEPOSITION of *Denis Brennan Bullen*, Doctor of Medicine, Professor and late Dean of Faculty in the Faculty of Medicine, Queen's College, Cork.

THAT in October 1861, I forwarded to Sir Robert Kane the following letter, with a request that he would give it himself into the hands of Sir Robert Peel:—

"Sir,

"4, Camden Place, Cork, 19 October 1861.

"The Government having announced their intention of founding a fourth Queen's College in Dublin, and as I presume that Sir Robert Kane, from his pre-eminent abilities and long-trying services in the cause of united education, will be placed at the head of the Metropolitan Institution, may I respectfully lay my name before you for nomination to the Presidency of the Cork College, in the event of the office becoming vacant? My claims are entirely grounded upon the part which, for many years, I have taken in forwarding every educational movement in the South of Ireland; and should I be selected the successor of Sir Robert Kane, you may feel assured I shall endeavour by a faithful and zealous execution of duty to justify any confidence reposed in me.

"I have, &c.

"To the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel,
Chief Secretary."

(signed) "*Denis Brennan Bullen, M.D.*"

October 21.—Sir Robert Kane sent me back the letter for Sir Robert Peel, with the following communication:—

"(Most confidential.)

"Department of Science and Art, Museum of Irish Industry,
Stephen's Green, Dublin, 21 October 1861.

"My dear Bullen,

I AM very glad to find you disposed to act in the matter of your letter. I think it would be by far the best for the interests of education and of the College, and I shall be happy to promote its success by every means in my power. You will easily understand, however, that I can do more by the application not going in through my hands, especially as you have been so kind in your allusions to my name. I would, therefore, suggest that you should send it in direct to Sir Robert Peel, or through Dr. Lyons or Mr. Beamish, and get them to write to him. Some reference or inquiry would then naturally be made to me, and I should have the opportunity of saying what I think, without any drawback of my personal intimacy or friendship for you. I, therefore, return it enclosed, but hope soon to hear of its receipt at head-quarters before long.

"Believe me, &c.

"Dr. Bullen, Camden-place, Cork."

(signed) "*Robert Kane.*"

14 May 1862, 12 o'clock, noon.—I called at the College to see Sir Robert Kane, who had arrived from Dublin two days before. It was generally understood throughout the College that Sir Robert was going to resign the Presidency. Mr. Fitzgerald, the Bursar, was in the room with him, engaged on business. Mr. Fitzgerald having left us both together, I asked Sir Robert to tell me about the intended fourth Queen's College in Dublin. He said, "The Ultramontanes and Trinity College are too strong at present, but he would be a match for them yet." I then asked what he intended doing with regard to the proceedings in Parliament upon Mr. Adderley's motion on the Museum of Industry. Sir Robert replied, that Mr. Cardwell had treated him very badly, and the Government did not support him as they ought to have done. But he could expect nothing better from Lord Carlisle, Cardwell, and Chancellor Brady, as they and Alexander McDonnell were subservient to the Ultramontanes. That Sir Robert Peel had been sent to Ireland

to back him in smashing the miserable coquetting that has been going on between Lord Carlisle and Dr. Cullen about the Catholic University. That Lord Carlisle and his party wanted to get him, Sir Robert Kane, out of the way; but as long as he could hold his own in Dublin, and command the support of Sir Robert Peel, Lord Clarendon, Mr. Gladstone, and the great statesmen of England, he did not fear their worst. I then inquired about his immediate intention of resigning the Presidency. He said, that he had made up his mind, after Cardwell's conduct, to go straight to London by 10 o'clock train next day, place his resignation in Sir Robert Peel's hands; and that on Saturday next following, all official connexion between the Cork College and himself would be at an end. I then referred to the letter I had written to Sir Robert Peel in the previous October, relative to my being his successor, which letter I had forwarded through Lord Fermoy. Sir Robert Kane said, "I was quite free to do as I liked." We then discussed the state of the College and of the Education question. I said that the Queen's Colleges should no longer be held up as a taunt and a defiance to the Catholic Church. That Lord Palmerston would not continue to support the Colleges, if they were the means of losing him all the Catholic votes. That if I applied for the Presidency, I would endeavour to bring about a more friendly feeling between Government and the Irish prelates, and would act in conformity with the letter I had written to Dr. Delany in 1851, which letter he, Sir Robert Kane, had read at the time. Sir Robert replied, that I may do as I liked, but nothing would induce him to concede an inch to the Ultramontanes. I then asked him what about the people at the Castle? did he intend to call there on his way to London with his resignation? "No," said he. "I will not go near them. I shall put my resignation into Sir Robert Peel's own hands." When I was about leaving he held me by the hand, and said, "Bullen, if you want the Presidency, get the Rev. Dominick Murphy to write a line to the Castle, hinting it would be agreeable to Dr. Delany to have you appointed. That is the way things are done by the Castle people. A priest calls there, and says—'Dr. Cullen would be pleased if the Lord Lieutenant would do so-and-so,' and of course the thing is done. Such is the way in which Ireland is governed."

When driving away from the College, after this conversation, I could not help thinking that Sir Robert Kane contemplated some serious political movement. The discussion upon The O'Connor Don's motion, with reference to the Catholic University, was expected to come on in the House of Commons from day to day; and it struck me that Sir Robert Kane intended to use influence with Sir Robert Peel, and induce the Chief Secretary to make some strong demonstration against the Ultramontanes, the result of which would render it an impossibility ever to effect an amicable settlement of the Educational questions in dispute between Lord Palmerston's Ministry and the Roman Catholic Members of Parliament. Acting under this impression, I hurried home, prepared and forwarded by that evening's mail, the following communication to the Lord Lieutenant, and addressed it through his Excellency's Private Secretary:—

"4 Camden-place, Cork, 14 May 1862.

"Doctor Bullen presents his compliments to the Private Secretary, and requests he will do him the favour of laying the enclosed communication before his Excellency."

"Sir,

"The Viceregal Lodge, 15 May 1862.

"I have not failed to place before the Lord Lieutenant your letter and the enclosed documents.

"D. B. Bullen, Esq., M.D."

"I have, &c.
(signed) "Walling Everard."

"To His Excellency the Earl of Carlisle.

"My Lord,

"Cork, 14 May 1862.

"Sir Robert Kane has just informed me that before many days the Presidentship of the Queen's College, Cork, will be at your Excellency's disposal. Being at liberty to seek the appointment, may I beg your Excellency will allow me to lay before you privately the enclosed documents? One is a letter which I addressed to the Right Rev. Dr. Delany in 1850, on the promulgation of the Decrees of the Synod of Thurles. The other is a pamphlet by my friend, the late Sir Thomas Wyse, in the compilation of which I took an active part. Your Excellency will observe some passages in Sir Thomas Wyse's speech marked in the margin. These passages express the principles and policy in regard to academical education, which form subjects of special reference in my letter to the Bishop. During the many years that Sir Thomas Wyse and I acted together in developing the present system of education in Ireland, we always succeeded in gaining the countenance and co-operation of the Roman Catholic prelates, to whom we were connected. When, however, the Colleges Act passed into law, and the whole education movement had been taken out of our hands, it was then these institutions, originally intended as a boon for the Roman Catholics of this country, were made subjects of polemical discussion and religious contention. I am anxious, my Lord, for an official station where I may be instrumental in giving effect to the policy of my lamented friend, and with the views on education which I now venture to bring under your Excellency's notice. Should the Government appoint me, no exertion of mine shall be spared to conciliate all classes of our community, and to conduct the affairs of the College in a spirit of good-will towards my colleagues.

"I have, &c.
(signed) "Denis Brexan Bullen."

"Sir,

"Dublin Castle, May 16, 1862.

"I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, with its enclosures, respecting the office of President of the Queen's College, Cork: and I am desired to acquaint you that His Excellency has received no intimation of the resignation to which you advert.

"I am, &c.

"(signed) *Thos. A. Larcom.*"

"Denis B. Ballen, Esq., M.D."

Monday, 19th of May.—Next morning the College was set on fire. Sir Robert Kane called on me at my house at 8 o'clock in the evening. He was to leave Cork next day. As a member of the College Council, I had been engaged in the proceedings connected with investigating the fire. Sir Robert said to me, "He was sure the fire was the act of some fanatic, influenced by the Ultramontane priests." I told him, in my opinion, modern fanatics do not destroy valuable property; they are content in dooming souls to fire. That some of my most intimate friends were amongst the Catholic clergy, who were loudest in condemning the Colleges; but they had no more to do with burning the College than the man in the moon. We then talked over the distress amongst the artisans and labouring classes, the demands for public works, and the effects produced upon the popular mind by the pastorals of Dr. Cullen and Dr. M'Hale. Sir Robert said, "You know, Bullen, these pastorals of the Ultramontane bishops create feelings amongst the lower orders which encourage the commission of agrarian and other great crimes." I replied, "Nobody deplotes more than I do the injuries which factions and political ecclesiastics inflict upon true religion and the best interests of Ireland." Sir Robert Kane then suggested that we should both draw up a report to Government upon the origin of the fire, attributing the crime to Ultramontane influence. I at once told him, "Sir Robert Kane, I will do no such thing, and I strongly advise you not to write anything to Government which you cannot swear to from your own knowledge." Sir Robert Kane then left my house, and from that hour I have not held any private communication, either oral or written, with him.

I swear that, having forwarded to Government my sworn depositions, together with minutes of testimony, it was my intention to give in evidence the whole of the above statement before the Recorder of Cork, if the traverse for damages had been proceeded with, or before any other court or tribunal where inquiry into the burning of the College may have been instituted. I do depose that recent proceedings in the House of Commons, together with certain allegations set forth by Sir Robert Kane, in letters published by him in the Cork newspapers, induce me now to tender additional depositions, and to state on oath that having been officially engaged as a member of the governing body of the College in investigating the circumstances of the fire, it is my conviction there is no evidence whatsoever to connect the crime with any person or party outside the College; but that the incendiary is an official of the College, and the conduct of Sir Robert Kane with reference thereto demands inquiry.

To the Right Reverend Dr. Delany, Catholic Bishop of Cork.

My Lord,

19 September 1850.

THE solemn admonition, regarding the Queen's Colleges, addressed to the Catholic laity of Ireland by the fathers of the National Council of Thurles, imposes upon me the obligation of approaching your lordship with deferential reverence, and laying before you, my episcopal superior, a statement of my connexion with academical education, both as a Professor of the Queen's College, Cork, and as the person who first originated the movement in favour of the foundation of these collegiate institutions.

Your lordship is aware that I am and have been a practical Catholic; that I have reared and educated a large family, striving by example as well as by precept to attach my children to our holy religion; that I have been for 23 years the surgeon of one of the largest hospitals in the kingdom; that Her Majesty's Government has conferred on me the appointments of Professor of Surgery in the Queen's College, Cork, and Inspector of Anatomy for the province of Munster; and that, under your lordship's favour, I have been for several years the confidential medical attendant and adviser of many of the religious communities in this city. Intimately identified with Catholic and public institutions, it now becomes my duty humbly and fervently to solicit your lordship's episcopal guidance and advice upon a subject which most deeply involves my temporal and eternal welfare.

In the year 1823, I graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, after having studied in the Schools of Medicine in Dublin, Glasgow, London, Paris, and Edinburgh. During the course of my studies, I became deeply impressed with the disadvantages under which the Catholics of Ireland suffered in the several colleges in the British empire, from the fact that there was scarcely a Catholic professor in any of the professional schools to countenance the students of our faith, and to protect Catholic interests. The students in colleges where every professor was a Protestant were exposed to the most insidious temptations, and no safeguard whatever was provided to protect their morals or religion. For some years, after settling to practise in Cork, I gave much attention to investigating the various systems of professional education, with a view of obviating

some of the evils which more particularly had claimed my attention. After a while, circumstances gave me an opportunity of bringing before the public the result of my inquiries. The proprietors of the Cork Royal Institution, a chartered association, elected me Professor of Chemistry, in the year 1828; and I was the first Catholic who ever held the office. In the same year I was appointed surgeon of the Cork North Infirmary, an institution in which, until my election, all the appointments had been exclusively Protestant.

Immediately after my election to the Professorship of the Cork Royal Institution, the annual grant of money which had been given by Parliament was withdrawn; and I availed of the occasion to publish a pamphlet embodying a prospectus for establishing, upon the basis of the Institution, a Provincial College for Munster. The nature of the lectures to be delivered in the proposed college were intended to be more particularly applicable to professional industrial instruction.

The proposal to found a college in Munster received a warm acceptance from the Catholic laity in the south of Ireland, and, in the year 1830, I was sent upon a deputation to lay the plan before the Secretary of State for Ireland. After a lengthened correspondence the Government of the day refused to entertain the proposition, for fear of interfering with the interests of the exclusively Protestant University of Trinity College, Dublin.

From this period five years elapsed, when a Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the state of academical education in Ireland, and I was summoned to give evidence before them. The Right Honourable Thomas Wyse, a Catholic, was Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, and the report founded upon the evidence, to which I respectfully refer your lordship, recommended to Parliament, as the groundwork for promoting academical education in Ireland, the details of organization which I had submitted for founding Provincial Colleges, and incorporating these institutions into a national university. The principles upon which I had proposed to form these educational establishments, and to conduct their internal management, were strictly the same as those upon which the National Board of Education had been formed, and which had received the formal sanction and authority of the Catholic prelates. It was upon this report that Sir Robert Peel subsequently grounded the Act for establishing the colleges.

Soon after the Select Committee of the House of Commons had laid their report before Parliament, several great public meetings were held in Ireland to petition the Legislature for the establishment of Provincial Colleges. The influential Catholics took a leading part at these meetings. I enclose your Lordship authenticated reports of all the transactions connected with this educational movement, by which you will perceive that on November 15, 1838, a permanent Committee of the Province of Munster was instituted, of which I was appointed secretary. The objects of the Provincial Committee were to prepare addresses to Her Majesty the Queen, and to urge upon the Government by every available method the necessity of extending academical education to the people of Ireland, upon such principles as would secure to the Catholic laity an equal benefit and influence with their Protestant fellow-countrymen.

These addresses to the Queen and petitions to Parliament were signed by the two Catholic prelates of the county, by a number of parish priests, and by several thousand Catholic laymen. In accepting the office of Secretary to the Munster Provincial College Committee, I was sensibly impressed with the importance of every educational movement in relation to the Holy Catholic Church; and being anxious to protect the interests of Catholicity as far as possible in my power, I consulted upon all fitting occasions with my venerated friends, the late Right Reverend Dr. Murphy and the late Right Reverend Dr. Crotty. I have in my possession the requisition, address, and documents connected with the proceedings for demanding of the Government the establishment of Provincial Colleges, to which their Lordships' signatures are attached. During the whole course of the popular movement having for its object to press upon the British Government the propriety of extending the principles recognised and adopted in the National Board to the higher departments of education, the influential Protestant interests of the country met the demands of the Catholics of Ireland, both in Parliament and in the press, with uncompromising opposition. It was only when the Government of Sir Robert Peel was compelled to conciliate popular influence for support, that the claims of the Catholics of Ireland for equal educational institutions was admitted, and a Bill was introduced into Parliament for founding Provincial Colleges.

It is not now necessary to inform your Lordship that, when the Colleges were formed, Her Majesty's Government nominated me to the Chair of Surgery; and that on the opening of the first Session, the Professors of Medicine elected me the Dean of Faculty. Being therefore officially connected with these institutions, and having taken an active part as one of the Council in the internal administration of the College, I willingly tender to your Lordship the fullest testimony of the influence which the teaching of the Colleges would be likely to exercise upon the Catholic youths who may frequent them; and I declare my deliberate conviction, that if the prelates were to assume the visitatorial powers which the constitution of the Colleges has vested in their Lordships, and if the Deans of Residences were confirmed in their functions, every reasonable safeguard consistent with the peculiar circumstances of society in Ireland could be provided for the protection of the religious principles of the students.

In considering this part of the question, it is essential to keep steadily in view the real character and intention of the Queen's Colleges, which are formed to supply professional and industrial instruction to those students of an advanced age who shall have completed their preliminary education in the preparatory schools. Until the principles and mind of youth

youth have been fully formed, and until a boy has received the Holy Communion, education ought to be religious and entirely Catholic. Your Lordship will permit me to elucidate the application of this principle to the Queen's Colleges, by referring to the particular cases of my own sons. Acting upon this conviction, I have educated my four sons at the Benedictine College of St. Gregory the Great, Downside, Somerset. After they have spent a certain number of years in that inestimable institution, it becomes my duty to guide each of them in selecting a profession. This is one of the most important duties a parent can discharge, for not only must he take into account the mental capacities and tastes of the individual, but he must calculate every circumstance which may ultimately avail in securing for the young man an independent livelihood. The choice of a profession and the means of qualifying a person for the practice of it, are strictly temporal concerns, and must be regarded as a commercial consideration. The system which has been established in the Queen's Colleges is avowedly formed to supply to the youth of Ireland those industrial, commercial, and professional facilities of instruction which may enable them to compete successfully in the various avocations of life with the inhabitants of England and Scotland, who have heretofore enjoyed social advantages which had been denied to this country.

As it is, therefore, of great importance to my children and to myself that I should secure for them the largest advantages at the most moderate cost, and that I should keep them as much as possible under my parental care, I have entered one of my sons as a student in the Queen's College, and propose to place my other sons there when they shall have attained a proper age. Your Lordship will therefore accept and deal with this communication from me, not only as coming from a Catholic professor holding office in the College, but also as a parent who has sent his son there, and is preparing his other children to become students in the same institution.

While I deliberately state to your Lordship that the system of industrial and professional instruction formed in the Queen's Colleges must be regarded as a vast and liberal concession from the British Government to the Catholic people of Ireland, I do not deny but that modifications may yet be devised and extended, which would offer still more stringent guarantees for the better preservation of the religious discipline of the students. Fortunately, however, the legal constitution of these Colleges, and the selection which his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has made with regard to the Visitorial Boards, place means at our disposal which require only an earnest and active co-operation between the prelates and the executive authorities of the Colleges to remove every reasonable ground of apprehension. In laying down the details of organization for collegiate teaching, the question of residence is one attended with the greatest difficulties; and many of the most serious objections to the Colleges would be immediately obviated by establishing suitable residential chambers for the students. The Act of Parliament for founding the Colleges makes provision in this respect, and it is in the power of the Catholic community to establish a residential hall, placed under the direct control of the Reverend Dean of Residence, and provided with a chapel for Catholic worship and instruction. Within the last few years schools of medicine have been formed in Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, and other great towns of England. The greater number of young men intended for the medical profession commence their studies in these provincial schools, and reside in private lodging houses. The Protestant clergymen of these large towns seeing the evils arising from allowing students to select their own residences without any guidance or check, proposed to the medical lecturers to unite their exertions and build residential chambers, for the use of which the students should pay a proper price. These chambers to be placed under the direction of a resident clergyman, who should act towards the students as a guardian, and join with them in religious duties. Although these residential establishments have been only a few years in operation, the results have been extremely gratifying, and the medical journals bear constant testimony to the excellent conduct of the students who reside in them, and to their greater proficiency in professional studies. Moreover, as a commercial undertaking, these residential halls return a large interest for the money which was invested in building them. In this city I have not the slightest doubt, but that a Catholic residential hall, sanctioned by your Lordship, and placed under the direction of the excellent the Reverend the Dean of Residence, would be eminently conducive to the best interests of Catholicity.

Having now explained to your Lordship my relations and opinions with regard to the Queen's Colleges, I must reverently inquire of you, as my legitimate spiritual authority, whether I have committed sin or violated Catholic discipline by my exertions to promote the establishment of the Queen's Colleges, which have incurred the condemnation of the National Synod? Whether I commit sin, or violate Catholic discipline by sending my sons to the Queen's Colleges, where they will obtain the means of learning their several professions and secure their future maintenance, whilst their morals and religion are protected by living under my parental care; and whether I commit sin or violate Catholic discipline, by teaching the practice of surgery within the Queen's College, and allowing the students of the Queen's College to participate with me in the surgical practice of the North Infirmary?

I have, &c.
(signed) Denis Breann Bullen,
Doctor of Medicine, &c., &c.

4, Camden-place, Cork,
Thursday, 19 September 1850.

The Under-Secretary to the President of Queen's College, Cork.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 30 October 1863.

I AM directed by the Lords Justices to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, transmitting certain statements laid by Dr. Bullen before the Council of the Queen's College at Cork, and the resolution of the College thereon; and I am desired to state that their Excellencies, having referred to your explicit denial of their contents in your letter of the 27th of July last, so far as they purported to detail the particulars of private conversations between you and Dr. Bullen, are of opinion that no farther consideration on the part of the Government would lead to a solution of the difficulties raised by statements so conflicting; nor are their Excellencies aware of any course of inquiry which could be instituted by them with the probability of a satisfactory result.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Thos. A. Larcom.*

Sir Robert Kane, President,
Queen's College, Cork.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Dublin Castle, 11 April 1864.
